

'The Full Name HUTH Dies used 1869-1936.'

Non-member Lars Boettger, who collects letters sent to/from 'Frederick Huth & Co', approached Jeff Turnbull for a list of postage stamps initialled with the full-name "HUTH". Jeff in turn passed on the request to me, and the resulting research has unearthed the following 'story'.

For the early history of the company I can do no better than quote from the website of the University College London - the 'UCL' is where the Frederick Huth & Company archives (1812-1955) are housed.

Frederick Huth first established his own business in Corunna, Spain, in 1805. He came to London in 1809 and set up business as a merchant. In 1814 he took John Frederick Grüning into partnership and the resulting firm, Huth & Company, was formed. Throughout the 19th century the firm is described in London directories as 'merchants', only from 1904 is the description 'bankers' added, although it is clear that the business always included banking. From 1912 the firm had a fur warehouse, it also had a tea warehouse from 1921. In 1936 the company was dissolved. The banking business was acquired by British Overseas Bank Ltd, and the fur business by C M Lampson & Co Ltd

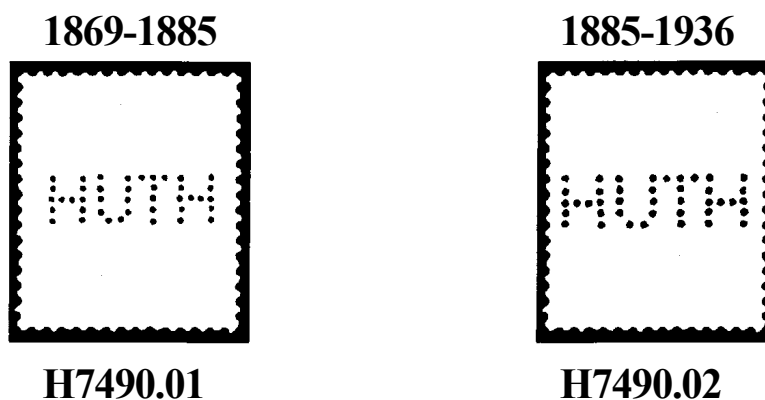
Confirmation of the Spanish connection can be found in the following extract taken from the 1881 Census of Great Britain.

Dwelling. 9 Palace Garden, Paddington, London, Middlesex.

	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace
Charles Frederick HUTH	M	74	M	Spain – British Subject
	Rel:	Head	Occ:	Merchant (Tokenhouse Yard)
Francis Caroline HUTH	M	68	F	London, Middlesex, England
	Rel:	Wife		
Reginald HUTH	U	27	M	London, Middlesex, England
	Rel:	Son	Occ:	No Occupation

This Charles Frederick Huth (born in Spain, c1806/7) is presumed to be the son of Frederick Huth, co-founder of 'Huth & Co', and would have been in charge of the company at the time of the census.

'Tomkins' and the old Illustrated Catalogue give sparse details of the two "HUTH" dies. However, an analysis of the postage stamps and Foreign Bills found initialled with these patterns (at least 260 different issues/values are known!) help refine the 'die in use' dates as follows:



The earliest/latest recorded dates for the two dies are:

H7490.01	15Oct 1870	28 Jan 1885
H7490.02	3 Mar 1885	3 Oct 1921 (Foreign Bill)

In the case of H7490.01, Queen Victoria 1d Red plate numbers in the low 100s (i.e. 100, 106, 107, 113, 116, 117) indicate a ***start date*** slightly earlier than 1870, say 1869 (or just possibly 1868). This early date means the die was made by Slopers during the 'monopoly' period.

Both dies are known on the 'Lilac & Green' issue of Queen Victoria, (introduced on 1st April 1884), with known dates in the first quarter of 1885, so the *changeover date* for the dies was probably February 1885.

H7490.02 is known used on the photogravure issue of King George V which ties in neatly with the take-over of the company, and gives us a *terminal date* of 1936.

The formal identity for both dies should now be:

Frederick Huth & Co, Merchants and Merchant Bankers,
12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC. [Established 1809].

Just to finish off the chronology, in June 1944 the produce businesses, Huth Coffee Sales Ltd and Huth Produce Sales Ltd (absorbed by the British Overseas Bank Ltd in 1936), were sold to Matheson & Co, while the banking business was sold to Glyn, Mills & Co (Established 1753). In 1954 the British Overseas Bank Ltd was formally wound up, a process which was not finalised until 1962.